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Seventy-first year

Letter dated 11 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the decree of the Parliament of Ukraine (Verkhovna Rada) on its appeal to the United Nations, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, world leaders and all members of the international community to honour the victims of the genocide of the Crimean Tatar people and the condemnation of the violations of the rights and freedoms of Crimean Tatars by the Russian Federation (see annex).[1]

I would appreciate your assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72 (c), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Reissued for technical reasons on 18 May 2016.
[1] The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only.

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Annex to the letter dated 11 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Decree on the appeal of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to the United Nations, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, world leaders and all members of the international community to honour the victims of the genocide of the Crimean Tatar people and the condemnation of the violations of the rights and freedoms of Crimean Tatars by the Russian Federation

"Reaffirming respect for the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 1950, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of 1995, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of 2007, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948;

Noting that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is the obligation of the countries erga omnes, and violation of human rights and freedoms is unacceptable and has unanimously been condemned by the international community;

Reaffirming Ukraine's respect for international law and commitment to the protection of indigenous peoples and national minorities;

Recalling that systematic violations of human rights are the basis of bringing the state to the international legal responsibility;

Stressing that the Russian Federation continues to commit aggression against Ukraine;

Condemning the occupation and illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation;

Taking into consideration the Statement of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on guarantees of the rights of Crimean Tatar people as a part of the State of Ukraine;

Recalling the recognition of Crimean Tatars by Ukraine as indigenous people of Ukraine;

Affirming that the deportation of Crimean Tatars in 1944 is the genocide of the Crimean Tatar people;

Expressing outrage of numerous and systematic facts of violations by the Russian Federation of the rights of Crimean Tatars on the territory of occupied Crimea;

Reaffirming the right of the Crimean Tatar people to self-determination as a part of Ukrainian sovereign and independent State;

Reaffirming the recognition of the Crimean Tatar Mejlis as the executive body of the Kurultai and Kurultai as the highest representative body of the Crimean Tatar people;

Condemning the ban and obstacles of Crimean Tatar Mejlis activity and the persecution of its representatives;

Honoring the memory of innocent victims of criminal deportation of the Crimean Tatar people committed by the Communist totalitarian regime on May 18, 1944, as well as victims of illegal actions of the Russian occupation authorities in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol in 2014-2016;

Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine:

State that systematic pressure on the Crimean Tatar people, repressions of citizens of Ukraine on a national basis, organization of ethnically and politically motivated prosecutions of the Crimean Tatars, their bodies, such as the Crimean Tatar Mejlis and Kurultai, on the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine by the public authorities of the Russian Federation, starting from the date of temporary occupation, is a conscious policy of ethnocide Crimean Tatars;

Calls on Russia to stop immediately the policy aimed at violation of human rights and freedoms in the Crimea as an integral part of the sovereign territory of Ukraine, in particular the rights of Crimean Tatars as an indigenous people of Ukraine;

Calls on the international community to condemn the actions of the occupation authorities of the Russian Federation of prohibiting Crimean Tatars Mejlis on the territory of peninsula and calls upon all world leaders and recognized public figures to make the necessary efforts to protect the Crimean Tatars from discriminations and harassments of the Russian Federation;

Urges the international community to recognize the deportation of Crimean Tatars from Crimea in 1944 as a genocide of the Crimean Tatar people;

Appeals to all States, international organizations and institutions to join on May 18, the Day of Remembrance of the genocide of the Crimean Tatar people, to honor the memory of innocent victims of criminal deportation of the Crimean Tatar people committed by the Communist totalitarian regime, as well as victims of illegal actions of the Russian occupation power;

Calls on the international community to facilitate the prosecution of all those responsible for the illegal occupation and annexation of the Crimea and the systematic and widespread violations of human rights on the occupied Ukrainian territory".